

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-948V

Filed: July 10, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

TRACIE JOHANEK,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Amber Diane Wilson, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.  
Claudia Barnes Gangi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On July 14, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury as a result of her October 30, 2015 influenza (“flu”) vaccination. See Petition at 1-3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On April 13, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”). On July 10, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$100,000.00 representing pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$100,000.00, representing pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Tracie Johanek.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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**SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
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**No. 17-948V (ECF)**  
CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER DORSEY

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Items of Compensation**

On April 11, 2018, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. On April 13, 2018, Chief Special Master Dorsey issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$100,000.00 for pain and suffering. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$100,000.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future pain and suffering.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Acting Assistant Attorney General

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Acting Director  
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/s/Claudia B. Gangi  
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Dated: July 10, 2018